

Environmental organizations and solar businesses support 20% solar by 2025

Monday, November 16, 2015

As organizations, businesses, and individuals committed to protecting our environment, improving our quality of life, and strengthening local economies, we encourage you to make solar energy a key part of Massachusetts' energy future.

In recent years, solar energy has grown by leaps and bounds in Massachusetts, with clear benefits to our environment and our economy. The solar industry employed 6,400 Massachusetts residents in 2013, an increase of 42% from the previous year.¹ Schools, homes, businesses, farms, and government buildings in virtually every Massachusetts community have made the switch to solar, reducing the harmful pollution emitted from burning fossil fuels and protecting consumers from escalating fuel prices.

Currently, only a small fraction of Massachusetts' energy comes from solar, but recent progress shows we can take it to the next level. Massachusetts has the technical potential to produce twice as much electricity from solar power as the state consumes each year. More than 700,000 commercial and residential rooftops in Massachusetts could host solar panels.²

For the sake of our environment, our health, and the economy, we ask that you join us in committing Massachusetts to getting 20% of its electricity from the sun by 2025.³

The cost of solar is declining. The cost of air and water pollution from fossil fuels is growing, along with the threats posed by climate change. Please help to set strong goals for solar in Massachusetts, so that Massachusetts can continue to lead the nation in fighting global warming and promoting clean energy.

Sincerely,

[see attached]

¹ *2013 State Solar Jobs Map*, The Solar Foundation, <http://thesolarfoundation.org/solarstates>.

² *Star Power: The Growing Role of Solar Energy in Massachusetts*, Environment Massachusetts Research and Policy Center, November 2014, <http://environmentmassachusetts.org/reports/mae/star-power-growing-role-solar-energy-massachusetts>.

³ Data from the National Renewable Energy Laboratory shows that Massachusetts has the technical capacity to produce twice as much electricity from solar as the state uses each year, and the state can meet 20% of its electricity needs from rooftop solar alone. Massachusetts can reach 20% solar by 2025 with only a 30% annual rate of growth in solar energy, compared to a 127% annual rate of growth over the last three years.

Environmental and Energy Organizations

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GotSun-GoSolar (Seekonk)

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Great Sky Solar (Brookline)